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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant

Connie D. Myers

Application No.

09/575,249

Filed

May 19, 2000

For

MULTI-VENDOR TRANSACTIONS BASED ON

NEAR-IMMEDIATE REBATE DETECTION

Art Unit

2761

Docket No.

680047.404

Date

April 16, 2002

Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Specification:

Please add the following paragraph to the detailed description, beginning on page 68, line 4:

As is apparent above, unless context clearly requires otherwise, those having ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that the embodiments described herein function with related-art rebate vehicles, such as FSIs, as well as with other rebate

04/26/2002 AUSMAN1 00000018 09575249